

To: Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund Advisory Board
From: Nancy Selman
Date: May 5, 2004
Re: Meeting Minutes for April 13, 2004

Next meeting dates: Second Tuesday of every month. For 2004: 5/11, 6/8, 7/13, 8/10, 9/14, 10/12, 11/9, 12/14

In attendance: See attached Attendance List.

- 1) Minutes and Update
 - a) March Minutes - #4 – decision on waiver was deferred
 - b) April Update – Narragansett had not been able to review the April Update – will incorporate comments into these minutes
- 2) Budget – Janice presented a budget projection from the Department of Administration Budget Office. The Budget Office is anticipating the funding of all multi-year commitments being made by the Fund.
- 3) Brown UEL (Urban Environmental Lab) – is requesting the Fund provide a grant for a residential scale PV installation:
 - a) The Facility was recently re-roofed;
 - b) A data monitor would be placed in a publicly-accessible hallway;
 - c) A PV array would be visible from the street and a deck.

The Board voted to approve a grant for the greater of 1) the cost of the proposed project less the amount of amortized energy savings and 2) 90% of the cost of the project.
- 4) Small Customer Program – CSG and Community Energy – Bob Grace presented a recommendation for:
 - a) Approval of CSG's application for the small customer program;
 - b) Approval of Community Energy's application contingent on satisfactory resolution of T&C's language under which Community would commit to serve customers for at least 2 years.

The recommendation was accepted by the Board in a vote.
- 5) GSA/EPA – These two federal agencies have jointly issued an RFP for green power (RECs) and are simultaneously making a request for funding under the Large Customer Program. A recommendation was made to wait until responses to the RFP are received, due to the fact that it is believed that the agencies' expectation of REC pricing is low.
- 6) CRS – CRS is requesting two years of grant funding of up to \$56,000 per year to carry out its Green-e certification program in Rhode Island and the Northeast. As part of that program in RI, CRS would like to use some of the grant funding for a "scholarships" to be given to green power marketers to defray the cost of the fees for Green-e certification of green power products. The Board decided by vote to:
 - a) Not provide funding to CRS for scholarships
 - b) To commit to one year of funding for Green-e programs in the amount of \$25,000;
 - c) A second year of funding is contingent on the proposed changes in fee structure being adequately addressed and on CRS bringing in other in other state funding.

The Fund is open to providing grant funding for Green-e certification directly to green power marketers.
- 7) RIPIRG – An Earth Day Breakfast honoring Harold Ward and others was scheduled for April 23, at Aspray Boat House 8:30 am. The Board was invited.
- 8) RW Park Zoo – The Fund is a sponsor for the 2004 Earth Day celebration at the Zoo on 4/17 and as such, had a booth for the day. In addition to hand outs, a solar lighting landscaping kit was approved for a raffle prize (approximately \$60).

- 9) Think Energy – Think has requested an additional \$8730 in consulting fees to perform the contract negotiation for the RECA Green Power RFP. The additional consulting fees are being requested because the planned structure of the RECA transaction, a “contract for differences” is more complex than what was originally anticipated, which was a relatively straightforward RECs purchase. The Board voted to approve the additional consulting fees subject to:
 - a) Fixed fee;
 - b) Part of fee paid after completion of project;
 - c) Will also require the use of about 5-10 hours of Bob Grace’s time.
- 10) PV RFP – There had been requests from CSG and 2 schools to change the requirements of the RFP:
 - a) The host ownership requirement for the \$7/watt funding to non-profits;
 - b) The K-12 school exclusion (which is due to the existence of the Solar on Schools program).

It was recommended and agreed that the Fund will instruct those who are requesting the changes to the RFP to submit their proposals as noncompliant for review and evaluation by the Fund and possible funding. Changes to the RFP will be made for future rounds of proposals if a decision is made that such changes are desirable.

- 11) CESA – Public education project television and radio ads were shown.
- 12) Solar Hot Water – Narragansett Electric would like to have solar hot water funded by the Fund. SEO would like to be able to have a program. It was stated that such a program would not have a major impact on budget due to the lower cost of the solar hot water systems as compared to PV (but no supporting documentation of the impact on budget was provided). The adoption by the Fund of a solar hot water program would require a change in the legislation, which is not desirable at this time.

Decisions

- 1) The Board voted to approve a grant for a small PV system at the Brown University Urban Environmental Laboratory for the greater of 1) the cost of the proposed project less the amount of amortized energy savings and 2) 90% of the cost of the project.
- 2) The Board voted to approve CSG’s and Community Energy’s applications for the Small Customer Program, subject to changes in Community Energy’s product’s Terms and Conditions having to do with the term for providing service.
- 3) A recommendation was made and agreed upon to defer discussion of a Large Customer Incentive for GSA/EPA until they have received responses to the RFP and know what kinds of transaction prices they are actually dealing with.
- 4) The Board voted to commit to one year of funding for CRS for Green-e programs in the amount of \$25,000.
- 5) The Board voted to approve the additional consulting fees in the amount of \$8730 for Think Energy to assist in the contracting phase of the RECA solicitation for green power purchase.
- 6) Applicants who are requesting the changes to the PV RFP will be asked to submit their proposals as noncompliant for review and evaluation by the Fund and possible funding.

Actions:

- 1) A letter informing Brown of approval of its grant request for a residential-sized PV system will be sent.
- 2) Bob Grace will follow up with Community Energy regarding making changes in its Terms and Conditions. A letter will be sent to Community Energy and CSG informing them of approval of their applications for the Small Customer Program.
- 3) A letter will be sent to CRS informing them of their \$25,000 grant for the Green-e program.

- 4) A letter will be sent to Think Energy informing Mark Crowdis of approval of additional consulting fees in the amount of \$8730.
- 5) Applicants who are requesting the changes to the PV RFP will be asked to submit their proposals as noncompliant for review and evaluation by the Fund and possible funding. The PV RFP may be changed as a result of evaluation of the noncompliant proposals.

Attendance

McClanaghan, Janice
Grace, Bob
Canada, Kate
Capobianco, Julie
Jacobson, David
Teichert, Kurt
Ward, Harold
Warfel, Chris
Condon, Pat
Buck, Roger
Ryan, Eleanor
Stephens, Erich
Selman, Nancy